



Overland Park Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ) 

7600 West 75th Street, Overland Park, KS 66204
913-677-4646

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday Services

“Middlers” Adult Christian Education Class — 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
“Growing In God’s Love” Children’s Sunday School — 9:30 a.m. in Room 32
Traditional/Blended Worship — 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Nursery care available for children through 3 years old

Sunday Worship is Live-Streamed on our Website and Facebook Page

www.opccdoc.org • @opccdoc (Twitter & Instagram) • www.facebook.com/opccdoc

Help, Thanks, Wow – Lunch & Learn

Does gratitude really make a difference? It does according to a growing number of scholars who have produced a raft of studies that document the benefits of being grateful. A small sample of their conclusions states that:

People who regularly keep track of feelings of gratitude are happier, feel better physically, sleep more soundly, and are more optimistic about their lives. They are also more likely to make progress in the pursuit of their goals. People who feel grateful also are more likely to help or offer emotional support to others. Grateful adults have more positive attitudes about their lives and the world.

Join members and friends of OPCC and Broadway Church in a “Lunch and Learn” style gathering during the first three Sundays of November, as we dive deeper into, and share about the practice of gratitude as part of our spiritual life. We will gather in the Fireside Room at 11:45am on Sundays, November 5, 12, and 19, to be fed physically and spiritually, by the spiritual practice of thanksgiving, as we also get to know one another even more.

Though it is not required reading to participate, we will use some material from Anne Lamott’s book [“Help, Thanks, Wow.”](#) If you would like to join in this opportunity to read about these “three essential prayers,” you might choose to get a copy of this book, though we will not exclusively work from this piece. Lamott says the prayer of “thanks” covers a lot of territory and opens many doors. She links the spiritual practice of gratitude with grace as she recalls a hymn sung at her church: “God has smiled on me. He has set me free.” Life throws a lot of pain and loss and suffering and death at us. But “thank you” is our shield and motto as we wade through the troubles and bad days.

Whether you choose to read the book or not, or if you join us for all three sessions, or only one, you are invited to join as we discern and discuss gratitude *together*, and you will certainly be “fed” spiritually (and physically) no matter what! (If you plan to join, please let Cody in the church office know so we can get an estimated head count for the food — thanks!)

Jana

In Remembrance

Members of our church gather each week around the communion table, reciting the words of Christ and participating in the sacred meal “in remembrance” of Jesus. That gift has been handed down generation to generation.

On Sunday, November 5th, we also celebrated All Saints Sunday, remembering the saints of our community that have passed away in the last 12 months, and their impact on our lives. As we recalled the names of those who have died, our minds were filled with precious memories. We are their legacy, and much of what we have – in both material and non-material things – have been handed to us from them, which perhaps causes us to consider, what will we hand down to those who follow? How will we be remembered? Will we leave more than an empty spot in a pew?

Death is never a pleasant topic to consider, yet of all the places to consider the fullness of your life in God’s presence, we hope you do so within your faith community. As you consider your own life, and plan for the distribution of your assets at your death, consider a charitable bequest to our church. This is one way *your faith* can be transferred to the next generation. This, and other types of planned gifts, can undergird our congregation’s ministry in perpetuity, providing resources that will allow future generations of Disciples to worship, serve others and continue the vital ministries of the church.

As we consider stewardship this month, let us remember that it is not only our stewardship in these days, but that Christians also can use their estates to demonstrate one final act of stewardship of God’s gifts. Our possessions are gifts from God, and God has intended for us to use them wisely throughout our lifetimes. Through our estate plans, we can provide for our loved ones while also making a faithful distribution back to God to further God’s work. We will be remembered by our giving.

Please consider remembering the church in your will. Rev. Laura and our bookkeeper, Michelle Reiter, would be happy to talk to you more about legacy giving, and get you connected with The Christian Church Foundation for even more options.

2023 Missional Planning

After several gatherings in 2023, of church members, OPCC attendees, elders, deacons, and more, our OPCC leadership continues to focus on these FOUR PRIORITIES of our congregation for the rest of 2023 and 2024:

- Exploring the relationship and partnership with Broadway Church
- Exploring worship opportunities that speak to a broader audience
- Growth of our community, both individual growth, and growing our community of faith through invitation and opportunities
- Maintaining a Social Justice focus that moves from education to ACTION!

OPCC Board members Alan Felton, and Teresa Phillips have met with Broadway Church leadership, and our Regional Minister Rev. Bill Rose-Heim, and will continue to lead OPCC in the intentional discernment activities and conversations about what ministry with Broadway Church members will look like, allowing both OPCC and Broadway congregation members and leadership to get to know one another even more, and to discern specifics about finances and personnel.

Broadway Church (DOC) is renting one office from OPCC and sharing communal space in the same way RAV, Honeybee, CMS, AIM, and Monarch pay for their own exclusive space, and then share communal space, together, as the calendar allows. Broadway Church worships on Sundays mornings in the Fireside Room, to honor that unique way of worshiping in discussion around tables, and OPCC continues to worship in the sanctuary. As we continue to discern our futures together, we are grateful for the ways that we can all adjust to focus on these four priorities, including *exploring worship opportunities that speak to a broader audience*.

We know that moving forward in hopeful expectation involved a lot of patience, and trust. Like the disciple Thomas, we might even have a few doubts. Yet no matter what, we continue in hopeful expectation because we know God is guiding us, and leading our faith community into a future with hope.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

The OPCC office and Food Pantry will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd, and Friday, November 24th, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. You may still email staff, and they will respond the following week.



Food Pantry It's almost Turkey Time!

At our November (18th) and December (16th) food pantries, we traditionally share frozen turkeys (10-14 pounds) with each family that

comes to our regular Saturday pantries. We are soliciting donations of \$15 to help offset the cost of each turkey. If you are interested and able, please send your donation to the church office and mark it for the food pantry.

Because of limited freezer space, we are NOT able to accept the actual turkeys. (Instead we buy them at a discounted price from our local grocery store. And, they hold them in their freezer for us until the day of distribution.)

Would you, your family or group like to do more? Then consider purchasing from the following list and place the food donations in the blue barrel in the front reception area.

- ♦ Stuffing mix
- ♦ Canned Yams
- ♦ Potato flakes
- ♦ Canned gravy
- ♦ Canned pumpkin
- ♦ Small bottles of seasonal spices
- ♦ Tea bags
- ♦ Instant Coffee



How does a weary world rejoice?

An Advent series in Luke's Gospel

This year, given the unique schedule that Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, OPCC and Broadway Church, together, will begin Advent on Sunday, November 26, wondering together, *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?* as the hymn "O Holy Night" reminds us to do.

Inspired by the stories in the Gospel according to Luke, chapters 1-3, and the question, *How does a weary world rejoice?* each week of Advent we will respond to this question with a statement inspired by our scriptures. These sacred texts bring us into a space of possibility; in them, we find rhythms for rejoicing, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Each week a deeply relational "we" statement will bring us to joy, rooted in the knowledge that we belong to God.

As we move through Advent, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God's closeness with great joy. We will seek a "thrill of hope" in our hurting world, and welcome joy — even and especially if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, we will find many ways to rejoice, together, as we lead up to the sacred day of God's incarnation to the world!

Order Your Poinsettias!

Remember a loved one or honor a special friend at Christmas by purchasing a live poinsettia to help decorate the church for the Advent season. Cost is \$15.00.

Your name(s) _____

I/we would like to purchase _____ poinsettias, in **memory** of: _____

I/we would like to purchase _____ poinsettias, in **honor** of: _____



Please make checks payable to OPCC and return with this form to Michelle in the church office, or put in the collection box on Sunday morning. A list of memorials and honorariums will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Poinsettias may be taken home following the evening Christmas Eve service.

Music Department Update

Several of our Chancel Choir members sing in EncoreKC! — a local 50+ singing ensemble, and they would like to invite you to their free Fall Choral “Pops” Concert on Sunday, November 12, at 3:00 pm. This concert will be all popular music, such as songs from The Beatles, a song often performed by Dean Martin and Michael Bublé, as well as a number of hits from Broadway shows.

Singers you will recognize are Barb Collins, Nancy Corbin, Sue Elliott, Jimmy Reynolds, Lois Wimpey, and Mary Beth Boucher (who is also a co-conductor of the ensemble). The concert will be held at Village on Antioch Presbyterian Church at 14895 Antioch Rd. We hope you join us!

Care & Share

All are invited to join for lunch, laughter, good food, fellowship, and support on the following dates with our Care And Share Support Group. We meet at the designated restaurants on the at 11:30 a.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Even if you have not been part of this group before, you are cordially invited to join us, and feel free to bring a friend or guest.

- * Thursday, November 16, 11:30am —
McLains Market - 5833 Nieman Road, Shawnee. We will be meeting in the Blue Room. When you order, please tell them you are with the group in the Blue Room. RSVP to Peggy Moore by November 13.
- * Wednesday, December 13, 11:30 a.m. —
Paulo and Bill located at 16501 Midland Drive in Shawnee. If you plan to go, RSVP to Peggy Moore by email or phone by December 9.

Middlers Sunday Morning Christian Education Class

Sundays, 9:00 – 10:10 am
NW Section Fellowship Hall

The Middlers' Adult Bible Study meets Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Northwest section of Fellowship Hall. Middlers is open for all persons to join in fellowship and grow in faith as we study scripture utilizing the Feasting on the Word curriculum.

Contact Peggy Moore at wpmoore63@gmail.com or 913-592-0179, for more information.



www.stoptraffickingproject.com/bealert.html

BeAlert® is the awareness and prevention strategy of the Stop Trafficking Project® to end domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST). This project's goal is to move us from awareness to action through high-impact, fast-paced, and evidence-based presentations.

The Girlfriends Bible Study will host a BeAlert® event on **Wednesday, November 29 at 5:00pm - 6:00pm in the Fireside Room**. [Stacey Lareau](#) will help us to understand the "why" of this training and the role social media plays in the DMST.

Men, women, parents, grandparents — all are invited, though this is an adults-only presentation. If childcare is needed, please contact Cody in the office by November 27 so we can arrange for it.

We hope you will join us in becoming more aware and to be able to spot where young people are so vulnerable. If so, the strategy of "see something, say something" will begin to help us have some tools to help keep our youngers safe.

Questions? Call Peggy Moore at 913-669-3527.

Girlfriends

Our Girlfriends Bible Study Group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We are studying the book "Christian Beliefs" by Wayne A. Grudem. (Let Peggy know if you need a copy of the book.)

Whether you are an "already in" Girlfriend, or a new Girlfriend, you are welcome to join us!

For more information, contact Peggy Moore at wpmoore63@gmail.com or 913-592-0179.

Men's Fellowship Group

All men are invited to the Men's Fellowship Group on the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room for coffee, study, and fellowship. The Men's group will be reviewing "The Chosen" video series starting in December.

Contact: Emerson Hartzler, 913-422-1378

Prayer List

Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Bill Anthony
- ♥ Marian Bilyea
- ♥ Nancy Corbin
- ♥ Chuck Elliott
- ♥ Cassy & Bob Evans
- ♥ Alan Felton
- ♥ Pam Felton
- ♥ Nicole Finley (Sally Withers' niece)
- ♥ Ruth Fletcher
- ♥ Pat Gilling
- ♥ Gordon Harkness
- ♥ Perri Kolars
- ♥ Audrey Lavelly
- ♥ Sue Mallery and family (Cassy Evans' sister)
- ♥ Eileen McIntyre
- ♥ Bryce Moore
- ♥ Roy Nickum
- ♥ Julie Norman (Lisa Engelken's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Pat Owsley
- ♥ Jimmy Reynolds
- ♥ Bette Scafe
- ♥ Mike Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ Tony Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ Barbara Sheldon
- ♥ Earl Sheldon
- ♥ Amanda Sprinkle (Lee & Jan Sprinkle's granddaughter)
- ♥ Mary Sprinkle (Lee Sprinkle's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Larry Stouse
- ♥ Chuck Warner
- ♥ Mike Williams (Coleen Thigpen's friend)
- ♥ Jim Withers

Continued Prayers

- ♥ Maurica Campbell
- ♥ Lawana Degraffenreid
- ♥ Laurel Elliott
- ♥ Pat Gray
- ♥ Donna & Marshall Howard
- ♥ Betty King
- ♥ Calvin McBride
- ♥ Christina, Jeff, Scott, & Jenny Packard (Sharon & Bob Shankel's daughter & family)
- ♥ Randy Phillips (Laura Phillips' father)
- ♥ Ann Sandler
- ♥ JoLynn Sloan
- ♥ Sandy Teeple
- ♥ Sally Withers

Military Prayer List

- ✧ PV2 Rachael Dawson (Fran Dawson's granddaughter), Ft. Campbell, KY
- ✧ Cameron McDonough (Cathy Wilson's son)

Condolences

- ♥ to Keenan White and the White family on the death of Keenan's son, River, on October 22
www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/river-white-obituary?id=53431583
- ♥ to Vicki Moyer and family on the death of Vicki's husband, Bob Moyer, on November 1
www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/kansascity/name/robert-moyer-obituary?id=53504190

Congratulations!

- ♥ to Lisa Engelken on her new grandson, Theodore Scott Knipper, born October 20, 2023, to Lauren & Spencer Knipper.

OPCC Prayer Chain

Would you like to have prayer support for yourself or a loved one? Members of the OPCC Prayer Chain are ready to pray for you. To contact the Prayer Chain, simply call or email the church office and give your message to Cody, our church receptionist. You can also write your request on the tear off attendance registration portion of the Sunday worship bulletin. (Please indicate whether this request can be shared, or should be kept confidential to staff only.)

You are also invited to join the Prayer Chain by contacting Cody with your email address or phone number. Intercessory prayer is a powerful way to support our church family.

In Christ,
Your OPCC Elders Circle

Worship Liturgists

We continue to need volunteers who will share in some of the elements of Sunday worship, and are excited to include those who worship in-person, or virtually! If you are willing to read scripture, or share in the Invitation to Worship, the Invitation to Discipleship, or other elements, in-person OR by recording a video in advance to be included in the worship, please let Cody in the church office know. Cody will get you on the schedule to participate in worship in this way, and Rev. Laura can guide you through how to do this virtually. We would love to welcome you into worship no matter how you join!

Thanksgiving Special Offering

Six times a year, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) reaches out to our congregations by way of Special Offerings in support of our General Ministries, the very foundation of our denomination's ministry. It is through these gifts that we are able to continue our work within the church at-large and beyond.

Since its beginning, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has pledged its dedication to the support of higher education. For 129 years Higher Education & Leadership Ministries (HELM), formerly the Division of Higher Education, has held the distinct privilege of providing support, nurture and funding in the denomination's realm of higher education. Currently, HELM partners with **15 colleges and universities**, and **7 seminaries and divinity houses**, all of which are associated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In addition to these established partnerships, HELM is looking to expand its relationship with other schools and institutions to better serve the educational needs of all our Disciples.

We are thrilled to announce that 2023 has been a banner year for many of our institutions. Enrollment is up, programs are expanding, scholarships are increasing – excellent news all around! Growth, however, tends to mean added expense. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering** so that we can both continue supporting the needs of higher education and learning, and grow to meet the broader needs of our Disciples students.

It is HELM's mission to develop and nurture Christian leaders who are transforming church, society and world. Together, we can make this obtainable for all. Thank you for your generous donation.

With gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Tamara Rodenberg
President, Higher Education & Leadership Ministries
www.helmdisciples.org



Your OPCC Staff

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Your 2023-2024 OPCC Board of Directors

Roger ClaarChair
Katherine Ann HaggardVice Chair
Teresa PhillipsSecretary
Richard OwensTreasurer
Alan FeltonCommission Liaison
Jody CashLeadership Development

The OPCC Scene is generally published the first Thursday of each month, except in July.

**Copy deadline for next issue is
December 5 for December 7 mailing.**

Help us reduce paper and postage costs!

If you would like to be removed from this mailing list or to receive this publication by e-mail, please contact Michelle Reiter at 913-677-4646, ext. 223, or
michelle@opccdoc.org